

## **What is claimed is:**

**[Claim 1]** 1. A stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle, the vehicle having an axle assembly and a suspension system for supporting the vehicle on the axle assembly, the stabilizer bar assembly comprises:

a stabilizer bar having right and left ends that are operatively connected to the axle assembly at spaced locations, the stabilizer bar has at least one annular ring intermediate the ends;

a first bushing and a second bushing each having an inner surface that contacts the stabilizer bar, the first bushing having a groove for receiving the annular ring and contacting opposite sides of the annular ring; and

a first and a second bracket that each engage an outer surface of one of the bushings to secure the first and second bushings to the vehicle at spaced locations.

**[Claim 2]** 2. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the annular ring is a ring integrally formed on the stabilizer bar.

**[Claim 3]** 3. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 2 wherein the ring is integrally formed by heating the stabilizer bar and upsetting the bar in a forming die.

**[Claim 4]** 4. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the annular ring is a separately formed ring that is secured onto the stabilizer bar in an assembly operation.

**[Claim 5]** 5. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the stabilizer bar is a solid bar.

**[Claim 6]** 6. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the stabilizer bar is a hollow tubular member.

**[Claim 7]** 7. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first bushing has a cross-section that defines the groove to include first and second walls that extend outwardly from the inner surface of the bushing, the first and second walls engaging the opposite sides of the annular ring.

**[Claim 8]** 8. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first bushing has a cross-section that defines the groove to include a curved concave wall that extends between two spaced portions of the inner surface of the bushing, the curved concave wall contacting opposite sides of the annular ring.

**[Claim 9]** 9. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein a rib is formed on an outer surface of the first and second bushings and the first and second brackets each have a receptacle portion for receiving one of the respective ribs.

**[Claim 10]** 10. The stabilizer bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 9 wherein lateral loads applied to the groove by the annular ring are resisted by the bushing and transferred through the bushing to one of the ribs and, in turn, to the bracket.

**[Claim 11]** 11. In combination, stabilizer bushing assembly and a stabilizer bar having an outwardly extending protrusion comprising:

a bushing having an inner surface adapted to engage the stabilizer bar and an outer surface having a first surface feature, the inner surface defining a recess that

has right and left sides that are adapted to engage the protrusion on the stabilizer bar to resist lateral movement of the stabilizer bar relative to the bushing;

a bracket engaging the outer surface of the bushing, the bracket having a second surface feature that engages the first surface feature of the bushing to resist lateral movement of the bushing relative to the bracket.

**[Claim 12]** 12. The combination of claim 11 wherein the protrusion is a ring integrally formed on the stabilizer bar.

**[Claim 13]** 13. The combination of claim 12 wherein the ring is integrally formed by heating the stabilizer bar and upsetting the bar in a forming die.

**[Claim 14]** 14. The combination of claim 11 wherein the protrusion is a separately formed ring that is secured onto the stabilizer bar in an assembly operation.

**[Claim 15]** 15. The combination of claim 11 wherein the stabilizer bar is a solid bar.

**[Claim 16]** 16. The combination of claim 11 wherein the stabilizer bar is a hollow tubular member.

**[Claim 17]** 17. The combination of claim 11 wherein the right and left sides of the recess extend outwardly from the inner surface of the bushing, the right and left sides engaging opposite sides of the protrusion.

**[Claim 18]** 18. The combination of claim 11 wherein the right and left sides of the recess define a concave wall that extends between two spaced portions of the

inner surface of the bushing, the concave wall contacting opposite sides of the protrusion, and wherein the protrusion has a convex outer surface that is engaged by the concave wall of the bushing.

**[Claim 19]** 19. The combination of claim 11 wherein a rib formed on an outer surface of the bushing and the bracket has a receptacle portion for receiving the rib.

**[Claim 20]** 20. The combination of claim 19 wherein lateral loads applied to the concave wall by the convex outer surface of the protrusion are resisted by the bushing and transferred through the rib to the bracket.